



Go Wild! Living With Our Wild Neighbors

Wildlife is everywhere you look. People have built more and more houses in areas that were once occupied by animals, and the animals have had to learn to adjust to living in our backyards. But we have to remember that they were here first, and we should respect their habitats and learn to live peacefully with our wild neighbors.



The Department of Animal Care & Control receives hundreds of phone calls every day, and often half of those calls are questions about wildlife. Most often people just don't know that the animal is showing normal behavior, and other times they do not know how to handle conflicts with wildlife in a safe, humane manner.

How can you help?

By educating your neighbors, classmates, and friends about **common wildlife in our area, normal wildlife behavior, and humane solutions to wildlife issues**, you can help Animal Care & Control reduce the number of calls that it receives and focus on animals that are truly in need.

Research



Research what animals are common in Loudoun County, how they behave, and how to co-exist with them. Find out ways to humanely solve conflicts with wildlife. Some good resources to get started are:

- Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/>)
- Wildlife Rescue League (<http://www.wildliferescueleague.org/>)
- HSUS (http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/wild_neighbors/)
- Living With Wildlife (www.livingwithwildlife.org)
- Wildlife Hotline (<http://www.wildlifehotline.org/>)

Educate

Share what you've learned! Make posters and find locations in the community to display them (libraries, community centers, stores, vet offices – be creative).

Do a presentation for your school, church group, homeowner's association, scout troop – anywhere! Create a flyer or brochure. Make a website! Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper.

Observe wildlife in your area (remember: look, listen, but don't touch!) and take photos to include in your materials and presentations. Include interesting facts that you have learned in your research and be sure to let people know where they can look for more help.



Report

Let us know what you have done! Write a report on your project and send it to Animal Care & Control. You'll receive a Certificate of Appreciation and inclusion in our monthly newsletter. Reports should be sent to:

Laura Rizer, Community Outreach Manager
Loudoun County Animal Care & Control
39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197
Email: Laura.Rizer@loudoun.gov

Group leaders: be sure to include names for the certificates needed and where they should be sent. Questions should be directed to Laura Rizer at 703-737-8045.